

up of new, expansion and de-bottlenecking projects of urea requires prior approval of the Department of Fertilizers which are to be based on Natural Gas (NG) and Liquefied Nature Gas (LNG) as feedstock and fuel, as per the pricing policy for investment made in new, expansion and debottlenecking project of urea notified in January, 2004. Presently, only one proposal for setting up another unit of Namrup Fertilizer Plant (Namrup IV) of M/s. Brahmputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. is under consideration of the Government.

Medicines under ECA

†2607. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines have been included in the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any provision in the said Act for keeping control of prices of those medicines being sold in the country which are patented by the multinational companies and are having international prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (d) Medicines are covered by the item 'Drugs' which have been included in the Schedule of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2006 passed in the Rajya Sabha on 29.8.2006 and Lok Sabha on 28.11.2006.

(c) No, Sir.

Companies violating the order on price reduction of medicines

2608. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the price reduction of more than 800 medicines;

(b) if so, whether Government have made provisions for cross checks of authenticity of these reductions; and